



Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
1620 East 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620
406-444-2535

December 26, 2017

Dear Sage Creek Special CWD Hunt Deer B License Holder:

Thank you for participating in the Sage Creek Special CWD Hunt. Your B License is only valid for mule deer within the Sage Creek Special CWD Hunt area, and depending on what you purchased it may be for either-sex or antlerless only, but not both. The hunt will begin on January 6 and end when the harvest quota of 135 deer is reached or on February 15, whichever comes first.

CWD has been found in a mule deer in Region 4 in the Sage Creek area of Hunting District 401. CWD is an always-fatal disease of deer, elk and moose that is like mad cow disease in cattle, but it is not known to affect humans or livestock. If left unmanaged so that a large percentage of a herd becomes infected, CWD could cause significant population declines in the decades to come. CWD has not been found in northern Montana before this, but we at Fish, Wildlife and Parks are taking this very seriously.

Now that we know CWD is here, our next step is to determine the geographic distribution and the percent of the herd that is infected to guide future management. Because there are no good tests for live animals, we need to sample harvested deer. That's where you come in. Special regulations for the hunt are on the back of the attached map. ***This special CWD hunt does not grant any access to private land. Please be respectful of landowners and ask permission to hunt on private land.***

Two important aspects of this special hunt are the Initial Response Area (IRA) and the Transport Restriction Zone (TRZ) described below.

The Initial Response Area (IRA). The Initial Response Area (IRA) is the area around where the infected deer were harvested and is shown and described on the attached map. The IRA is where the Special CWD Hunt will occur, and your license is only valid in the IRA.

The Transport Restriction Zone (TRZ) – Toole, Liberty and Hill Counties. To prevent spread of CWD, whole carcasses or whole heads and/or spinal columns may not be taken out of Toole, Liberty and Hill Counties unless the animal has tested negative for CWD. The TRZ is big enough so that hunters have access to meat processors and/or taxidermists.

It is in the best interest of all Montanans to manage CWD, and we sincerely appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

John Vore
Game Management Bureau Chief

